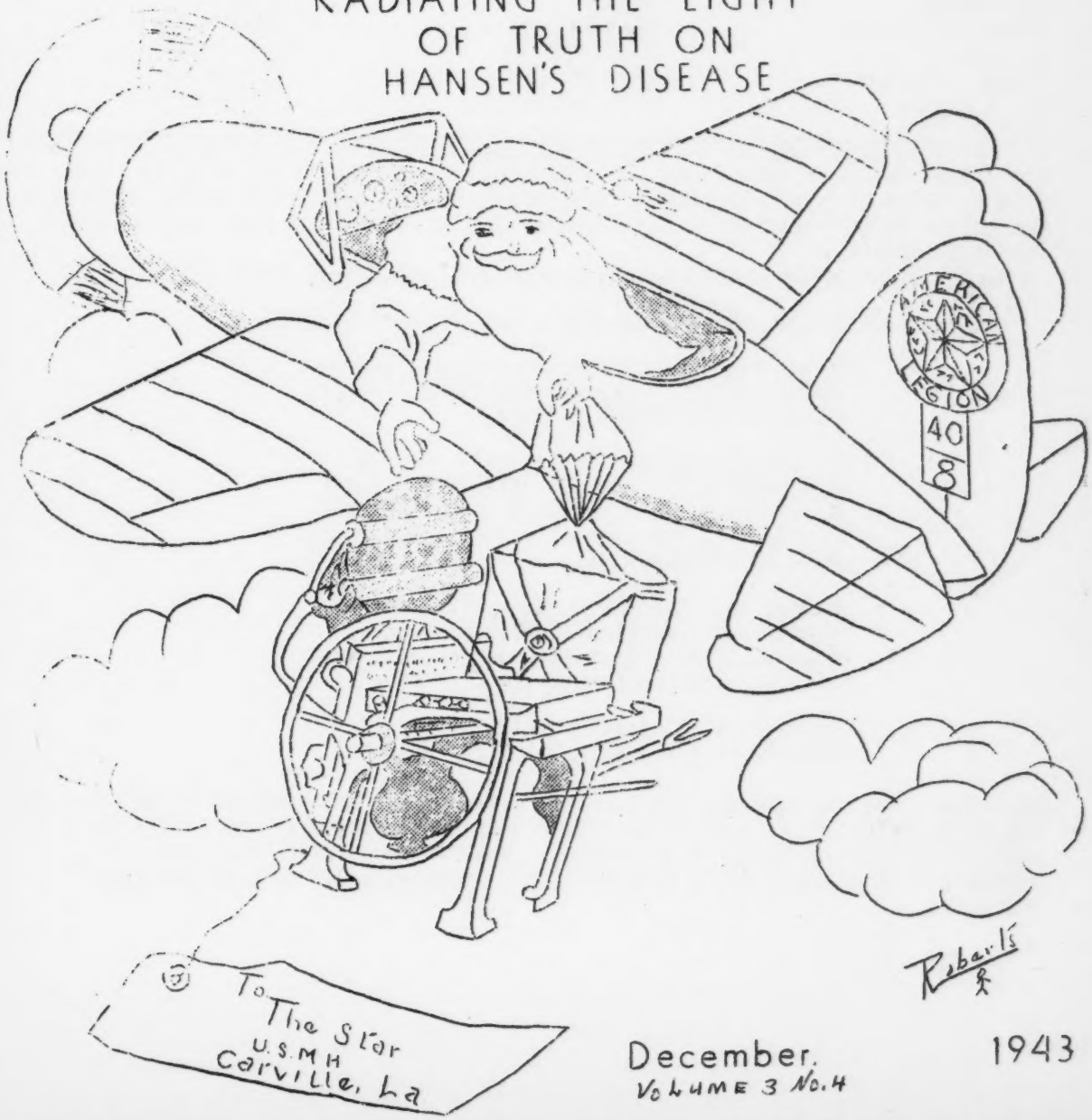
THE STAR

RADIATING THE LIGHT
OF TRUTH ON
HANSEN'S DISEASE



December. 1943
VOLUME 3 No. 4

RADIATING THE LIGHT OF TRUTH ON HANSEN'S DISEASE

Published monthly by the Patients of the United States Marine Hospital, National Leprosarium, Carville, Louisiana.
Instructive or amusing articles, poems, etc. are solicited and will be used as space and occasion permits. All material must be signed.
Subscription price $1.00 a year. Patients may subscribe for themselves or for their families for .50¢ a year.
Address all communications to THE STAR, CARVILLE, LOUISIANA.

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Roland Roberts-------Art Editor

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A. Desel	Hilda Garcia	Paul Jang
Tommy Boudreaux	Flor Domingo	Gilbert Lee
Steve Medina	Pete Bellocampo	Manuel Barone
Alan Smith		Eula

"In order that leprosy may be dealt with successfully on a comprehensive scale, and before any large proportion of early cases will come voluntarily for examination, there must be a change in the attitude of the public toward the disease. Any scheme for the control of leprosy will depend for its success on an educated public opinion."
Recommendation of World Conference on Leprosy, Cairo, Egypt, March 1938.

FACTS THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HANSEN'S DISEASE

The transmission of Hansen's Disease being still unsolved, the medical world classes it as "feebly communicable".

The Leprosarium at Carville was founded forty-nine years ago. To date, not a single member of the personnel has contracted the disease, nor has a case developed in the adjacent neighborhood.

Doctors and nurses take very simple precautions, not comparable with those they would take in dealing with diphtheria, typhoid and other communicable diseases.

Visitors are admitted freely, nor are they required to take any special precautions.

This paper, and all outgoing mail, is sterilized before leaving the hospital. THE STAR, rolled as we send it to you, requires 1½¢ postage, when sealed in a large envelope it requires 9¢ postage. Mail it to a friend when you have finished reading it. Help us to radiate the light of truth on Hansen's Disease.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Dr. and Mrs. G. H. Faget extend the Season's Greetings to the patients, one and all. May your spirits be high and your faith firm during the New Year. And may 1944 bring to Carville the gift of greater advance on the road to recovery. And to the Star, which will gain magnitude during the coming year, we wish success in its spreading near and far, and true light on Hansen's Disease.

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THE MANGER PRINCE

At 7 o'clock on Christmas Eve, the beautiful red velvet curtains of our theater will open on a mixed choir of forty members who will render their first cantata, THE MANGER PRINCE, portraying in song the ever-old, ever-new scene of Bethlehem. The choir will be seated on ascending tiers during the entire program, while a cast of fifteen actors will depict the story in tableau and pageantry in the front section of the stage. The cantata is composed of seventeen numbers,including soprano, tenor and baritone solos, treble, male and mixed choruses.The pageantry is enacted in twelve scenes,which will bring the audience back to that first Christmas.

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God is not dead,nor doth He sleep!
The wrong shall fail
The right prevail,
With "Peace on earth,good will toward men."

--Longfellow

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT SERVICE IN THE CATHOLIC CHAPEL

In the Catholic Chapel, the Solemn Midnight High Mass will be celebrated by Father Abbot Paul, Assisted by two visiting clergymen from St. Joseph's Abbey, St. Benedict, Louisiana.

The Mass will be preceded by the singing of the old Christmas carols, including the much-loved JESU BAMBINO by Pietro Yon. The High Mass will be rendered antiphonally by the choir;the simple but stately Gregorian melodies being a most fitting manner of celebrating the Birthday of the Prince of Peace.In contrast, the carols will be sung in four-part harmony.

Two low Masses will be celebrated at 7:30 and 8 a.m.Christmas Day,during which carols will be played and sung. The services will be closed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrement.

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CHRISTMAS SERVICES FOR PROTESTANT CHAPEL ANNOUNCED

Christmas Eve,Friday, December 24 at 2 P.M. there will be a special gift service.

Christmas morning, Saturday, December 25 at 9:45 A.M. will be observed with a Christmas Worship Service, sermon and special music.

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Chaplain and Mrs. Rash extend the season's greetings to all the patients and personnel of this Marine Hospital and to all who read THE STAR.May the peace of God fill all hearts.

MEDICAL VISITORS

Medical visitors during the month included: Dr. Carlos Gomez Plata, Colombia, S.A.; Surgeon K. E. Gamm, U.S.M.H., Chicago, Ill.; Surgeon(R) Henry Morgan, U.S.P.H.S., Charleston, S.C.; Dr. J.L. Kahn, San Antonio, Texas and Dr. J.S. La Due, L.S.U.; Lester Breslow, 1st Lt. M.C., La Garde General Hospital; Dr. George F. Fasting, Dr. H. H. Beard and Dr. T.J. Dimitry all of New Orleans.

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SISTER CATHERINE CALLS

While spending a fortnight in New Orleans, Sister Catherine Sullivan, Assistant Visitatrix of the Daughters of St. Vincent de Paul, Marillac Seminary, Normandy, Missouri, came to Carville for a brief visit on Tuesday, November 16.

To Sister Catherine who spent more than twenty years on duty here this hospital is "home" and she is always welcomed by her many friends.

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OUR COVER

Mr. Sam Rubin of Monroe, La., State Grand Chef de Gare of the 40 & 8, The American Legion, is the Santa Claus pilot in the plane pictured on our cover. Mr. Rubin has generously donated a new series Chandler & Price printing press to THE STAR, marking the first step in an ambitious expansion program which we plan for 1944.

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WAR STAMP REPORT

We have consistently put our dollars to work for Uncle Sam throughout this year. We can't join any of the numerous branches of service but we certainly have helped to buy planes, ships, guns and bombs. In December we invested $189. Next month we will report on our year's total of stamps and bonds purchased.

TRESURY DEPARTMENT HONOR CERTIFICATE AWARDED-PERSONNEL

In accordance with information furnished this hospital in an official communication dated September 30, 1943 from the Chief, Hospital Division, U.S. Public Health Service, Washington, D.C. there are only two out of a total of 26 Marine Hospitals, 100 % of whose employees are participating in the voluntary payroll savings plan, and thereby, in the purchase of War Savings Bonds. The U.S. Marine Hospital at Carville, Louisiana, is one of them. The other is the U.S. Marine Hospital at Galveston, Texas (the Medical Officer in Charge there is Sr. Surgeon O.E. Denny).

Under date of November 8, 1943 the Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service addressed the Medical Officer in Charge of this station, in part as follows.

"It is with a great feeling of pride and personal pleasure that I present herewith to the officers and employees of the U.S. Marine Hospital, Carville, Louisiana, The Treasury Department Honor Certificate. This Certificate is awarded to stations where at least 90% of the personnel are purchasing War Savings Bonds, through the pay roll allotment plan, and where at least 10% of the gross pay roll of the station is alloted for this purpose. I note that 100% of the officers and employees at the Carville Marine Hospital are participating in the pay roll allotment plan."

This HONOR CERTIFICATE has been appropriately framed, and is now prominently displayed in the lobby of the Administration Building.

Mary Browne

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If put to a pinch, an ounce of loyalty is worth a pound of cleverness.

Elbert Hubbard

CHINESE PATIENTS HAVE VISITORS

Dr. Quong, minister and Miss Lois Garrison, director of the Presbyterian Chinese Mission of New Orleans, were guests of Rev. and Mrs. Clifton Rash, and of the Chinese boys of this hospital on Friday, Nov. 26th. Miss Garrison is an old friend of the boys as she has visited them many times previously, but it was the first visit for Doctor Quong.

He was introduced to the boys by Rev. Rash at the Protestant Chapel where he lead the singing in Chinese with Miss Garrison playing the piano. Dr. Quong's friendliness and sense of humor helped overcome the boys' shyness in singing with a stranger. A sheet of music written in Chinese was handed to each of them and a sheet each to Rev.and Mrs. Rash!

After a brief talk and a sermon in Chinese by Dr. Quong the party went to the boys' quarters to see those who were unable to come to the service. During the course of conversation it was brought out that one of the boys had attended the same school in Canton, China that Dr. Quong attended and where ha later became a professor.

William.

FEAST OF GUADALUPE OBSERVED

The Mexican patients of this hospital are making a Novena to their patron saint Guadalupe.

A small altar has been arranged with a picture of the Virgin Mary in the living room of House 19-1. Each day from December 4 through December 12 a group of Mexican patients assemble to unite their prayers ans songs.

In former years December 12, the feast day, was celebrated by a real Mexican supper, but this year due to rationing the supper will be impossible.

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Give War Stamps and Bonds this Christmas.

D.A.V. OFFIDIALS VISIT

Niles. P. Evans, State Commander, and K.G. Chrisler, Commander of Capitol Chapter #5, Disabled American Veterans, motored down from Baton Rouge on Sunday afternoon, December 5, for a friendly visit with the ex-service men of this hospital.

Commander Evans attended the recent national convention of the D.A.V. held in New York City and told about the many interesting things that were done at this convention.

Messrs. Evans and Chrisler are both interested in Carville and are eager to be of assistance to us.

Commander Evans commented very enthusuastically on THE STAR. Said he, "I read THE STAR from cover to cover every month and it has given me an entirely new viewpoint." He stressed the great need that exist for general education on Hansen's disease and added that much of the erroneous idea in people's minds could be corrected by a wider circulation of THE STAR.

The D.A.V. group of Baton Rouge is planning a pre-holiday stag party as a special treat for the ex-service men here.

REV. AND MRS. RASH HAVE GUESTS

On November 18, Chaplain and Mrs. Rash had as their guests eight Women's Army Corps soldiers from Harding Field. These WACS found many things of interest here and stated that they greatly enjoyed the visit and that they appreciated the fine greetings given them by the patients in the theater.

Their names are: Sgt. Olove Dalton, Cpl. Loraine Witherite, Cpl. Ruth Shapiro, Cpl. Ruth Rodriques, Pfc. Eva S.Lehne, Pfc. Irene M.Pelletier, Pfc, Shirley Wessler and Pfc. Mary Sims.

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VOL.3 NO.4

EDITORIAL

CARVILLE'S BILL OF WRONGS

FOREWORD: In the April STAR Dr. Faget published the Rules and Regulations governing the operation of this hospital. Dr. Faget did this because he knew the patients were not familiar with the rules although they have been in effect since 1922. In the light of experience gained in the past 20 years we feel that these rules should be revised. With this in mind, THE STAR has undertaken the detailed discussion of the eleven rules for we believe with Pericles who, more than 2400 years ago, said, "Acts are foredoomed to failure when undertaken undiscussed."

Rules 1 through 6 (the latter in part) were discussed in previous issues of THE STAR.

Rule 6. No patient suffering from leprosy shall be allowed to proceed beyond the limits of the reservation set aside for the detention of these patients, except upon authority from the Surgeon General and under prescribe conditions. Should any patient violate his instructions in this regard, he shall, upon being returned to the reservation, be placed in detention, properly safe-guarded to prevent a repetition of the offense, or, at the discretion of the Medical Officer in Charge, be permitted to give bond to the UNITED STATES of America in a penal sum not exceeding $5,000 conditioned upon his faithful observance of this regulation.

In theory, if not always in practice, the patient who "proceeds beyond the limits of the reservation," even on a temporary excursion, is subject to the same penalties which Rule 6 imposes on the returned absconder. This temporary excursion may be only a walk in the woods to gather pecans, a hunting or fishing expedition in the nearby deserted territory, or a climb up the levee for a look at the Mississippi. For that matter, Rule 6 has been applied, at least on one occasion, to patients who had not even left their rooms, much less set foot outside the limits of the reservation, but who had simply thought about doing it. If this sounds like an exaggeration one has only to recall the case, a few years ago, of two patients who were placed in the detention building (polite term for jail) after it was reported to the M.O.C. that their suitcases were packed. Before a mass meeting of patients held in protest, the M.O.C. solemnly, as if reading Scripture, read Rule 6 to justify his action on the grounds that there was intent to leave and this made the patients as guily as if they had actually absconded. Admittedly, this was an exceptional case and an even more exceptional interpretation of Rule 6, but we cite it to show to what extremes this unjust rule can be interpreted, demonstrating that it should be, once and for all, revoked.

In order that our readers may get a clear picture of "the limits of the reservation set aside for the detention of patients," some idea of what constitutes these limits should be given. This hospital is located in a reclaimed swamp, on an area of 358 acres. The 375 patients (average

(See Page 5)

enrollment), however, are restricted to approximately 125 acres. Separating the hospital grounds proper from the station or personnel living quarters and administrative buildings is a low privet hedge, easily scaled but never abused; also many acres are set aside as pasture for cattle. Within these narrow confines the average patient spends the remainder of his life.

Patients are permitted a leave of absence (ten days to two weeks) twice a year but only about 10% of the the entire patient body can take advantage of these vacations, usually those from Louisiana and Texas. Other patients, because their homes are in distant states, and some for financial or physical reasons, are denied this privilege which has done so much to combat nostalgia and to boost morale. Before vacations were granted the percentage of absconders was much higher. Further proof that a liberalized policy is the best policy.

The majority of our visitors, here for a few hours, comment enthusiastically on our beautiful and modern buildings -- and they really are; however, a Canadian doctor who was here last summer, while admiring the buildings, added, "I also gained a wholesome respect for the members of the colony making their homes on those few acres at Carville." In those words the doctor evidenced an unusual depth of understanding because for many patients in this leprosarium do have to make it their permanent "home."

We here face a far different situation than the patient in the sanatorium, there for a few months or even for a few years, or the patient in a hospital for a chronic disease. Those patients are usually confined to bed while the large majority of patients in the leprosarium are ambulatory. Most of us feel well, like to go places and do things. There are many young people who would enjoy hiking, fishing, hunting and other outdoor activities and who should not be denied such wholesome recreation, and aid, both mentally and physically, toward regaining health.

Apart from those patients who can take advantage of the vacation period, patients in Carville, living in an institution said to be the most modern of its kind in the world, are in some respects living a far less normal life than patients in leprosaria under the American flag outside continental United States. Compare, for instance, our set-up with that of the leprosarium in Hawaii. Although situated in a far more inaccessible spot, much more isolated than Carville, about 450 patients on the Makanalau Peninsula on the island of Molokai, live on 8,000 acres. Here they have their homes (and their families with them if they wish), cows, horses and automobiles. Patients there own more automobiles per capita than are owned in the United States as a whole. One patient has the Ford agency for the Peninsula and, according to the latest information, the patients had 97 cars in which to ride the 4 or 5 miles of roads. They also have boating, fishing, hunting and other things which one would expect in such a large area.

Recognizing the great need in Carville for a project which would give every patient the opportunity of occasionally getting away from the monotony of hospital environment, as it drags through the years, the late Dr. J. K. Griffith, when he was Representative of this 6th Louisiana Congressional District, advocated that the government provide a large bus to take groups of patients on rides over the nearby countryside. That such outings would be of definite therapeutic value is certain. One patient, after 10 years of hos-

(See Page 6)

pitalization, was given special permission to spend the day on an automobile ride. Although he did not leave the car, he said, "That day's outing helped me more than many months of medication."

B. L. Spann of Baton Rouge, a loyal friend of the patients, has suggested that an overhead bridge or runway be built from "the tower" to the levee and part of the levee with the permission of the State be cleared as a playground for the patients. Although living within a bend of Old Man River, patients cannot now see the river or even the ships on it.

By no stretch of the imagination of even the most ax-grinding contagionist could either of these projects menace the health of the public, yet in widening the patients' horizon they would be a welcome diversion and bring much happiness.

For many years the patients have discussed among themselves the plssibility of the government making an artificial lake within our present boundaries. Old-timers will recall the recreation offered by the old lake where patients would sometimes spend the day, picnicking, boating and fishing. This old "lake" was nothing more than a slough, a wet, marshy place which the patients themselves, by dint of hard labor in clearing away rubbish and trees, had converted into a lake. In 1936, when an extensive drainage project was carried out to rid the place of mosquitoes, the old lake was filled in. Until recently this same ground was used by the boys as a place to go hunting. Now it has been fenced off as pasture land and the patients have again lost out. The present policy, it must be regretfully admitted, seems to be to limit the patients to less and less territory.

Many patients feel that the best and most practical solution lies right at our very doorstep. They believe that adding more territory to the present reservation would be the answer. THE STAR agrees with this idea IF this hospital must remain in its present unfavorable climatic location. For here we are, living on these few acres, yet we are almost entirely surrounded by 2 or 3 thousand acres of uninhabited woods and pasture land, all within a horseshoe bend of the river. This vast acreage, at least some of which could be part of this reservation, is owned by a wealthy Baton Rougian, and this land is posted. Recently, when a friend of the patients called on the owner asking persission for the patients to hunt on some of his land, he received a flat "No." Several years ago, before its present ownership, part of this adjoining land was offered to the government at an extremely low price but we understand it was turned down mainly because an ex-member of the local administrative staff, weary and of retirement age, opposed it on the basis that the additioanl territory would be too much trouble to care for. If a few hundred acres of this territory could be made available to the patients as a park with picnic grounds, bicycle paths and a part set aside for hunting, it would undoubtedly be a great morale builder and fill a definite outdoor recreational need.

This may sound Utopian to some, but to our minds it is just plain common sense and a step toward bringing about that contented state of mind which our medical staff tells us is so necessary for recovery. Incidentally, where there is a will there is a way and, if necessary, the government could acquire this land by right of "eminent domain" (the right of the government to appropriate property for public use, reasonable compensation being made).

Boiled down and stripped of

(Continued on Page 7)

AND I REMEMBER WHEN

by Hank Simon

I joined the Navy to see the world, and spent three years of my enlistment at Pearl Harbor. During my service In Hawaii I visited practically all of the islands in the archipelago, many of the volcanoes, swam at Waikiki and did all the things I had hoped to do.

On that calm, peaceful day when the Hawaiian Islands were first sighted on the distant horizon not one of us had the vaguest idea that this Paradise of the Pacific would one day be ruthlessly attacked by the Japs.

I was assigned a station on the U.S.Pelican, a mine sweeper, veteran of World War 1. My first trip to another island was to Kauai for a football game between the team from St.Louis College and some of the enlisted personnel of the Navy. The islanders gave us a hearty welcome and after winning the game we were entertained with a dance. The day was perfect but the next morning when we turned our ship homeward the sea was very rough. The whole crew, and the skipper too, were seasick and a trip usually taking eight hours took eighteen.

Several times the Pelican was assigned the duty of watching for or rescuing survivors from planes coming from the mainland. Well do I remember when Smith and Bronte made a successful non-stop flight from the States but made a crash landing in a tree near Kamalo. We were sent to collect the wreckage of the plane. Like fellows anywhere else the gobs all wanted a souvenir to take home. As long as only parts of the fuselage were taken all was well, but spark plugs, etc. from the engine were snitched. We had a swell skipper, so simply and finally he restricted shore leave for everyone until all parts of the engine were returned. Double quick every piece was put back in place. I also remember the fourteen days we spent at sea searching unsuccessfully for survivors of another flight.

Sure I want to a luau, quite a few of us were invited. The whole scene was just as picturesque as I had always imagined. The soft Hawaiian music, the Hulu Hulu dancers, the leis, the moonlight, and, of course, the poi, fruits, fish and all that goes to make up a luau.

One shore leave I'll always remember. My good time lasted a few minutes too long and when I arrived at the dock the motor launch from our ship was disappearing in the distance. A miss was as good as a mile for me. All's well that ends well, I phoned the ship and another launch was sent for me.

Yes, I had a girl, all sailors do. My best girl was a school teacher at Lahaina and I liked her so much that I've now settled down in the "port" of Carville with the local school marm as my wife.

Editorial (Continued)

its official language, Rule 6 simply says to the patient, "You must stay in your own back yard or else!" Therefore, it seems to follow that it would be only fair for the powers-that-be to provide a sizable back yard for the patients to stay in. How about it?

Success lies, not in achieving what you aim at, but in aiming at what you ought to achieve, and pressing forward, sure of achievement here, or if not here, hereafter.

---R.F.Horton

"TIME" IS NOT TIMELY
It is
Inaccurate and Sensational

TIME, The Weekly Magazine(Dec. 6, 1943), under "Medicine", published a story with the odious caption,"Leper Loose". By implication, a cleverly sly but reprehensible style of journalism, TIME succeeded in giving this item a sensational twist. The misleading caption implies that the patient referred to is now at liberty in Philadelphia; even our local medical staff were misled on first reading. Factually,this patient was admitted to this hospital in January 1940, and remained here until his death in April 1942. It is unfortunate that a magazine of the standing of TIME should resort to such ghoulish methods to provide a scare headline.

The article is replete with inaccuracies.The victim is described as having"the typical leonine face of a skin leper." This is false.This patient was definitely not the leonine type and showed no visible signs of the disease. The photo accompanying the story pictures a patient of the leonine type in a very advanced stage.The picture is not of this patient but one secured from a service, "Pictures, Inc."; however, the cunning way in which TIME uses this photo implies that it is and the reader will get the impression that the average victim of leprosy resembles the one in TIME's illustration. Here, in the National Leprosarium,less than 1% of the patients have this extreme type of the disease.

TIME also states that "Leprosy is extremely rare -- there are only about 350 cases in the U.S. Leprosarium in Louisiana." From this the reader will infer that all cases in the United States are in the Louisiana Leprosarium. This is misinformation. A conservative estimate of cases in the United States is about 2,000.

TIME's article was occasioned by an item in a current number of the "Annals of Internal Medicine" which had written up the case for the medical profession. The medical journal's purpose was to show the difficulty doctors have in making a correct diagnosis, particularly in sections of the country where the disease is not well known.But the journal gave dates showing that it was an old incident. TIME siezed on the item and, without mentioning dates, made it appear as of the present,using the item, not for its scientific value but for sensational purposes, thus becoming a party to the spread of leprophobia among its countless thousands of readers.

TIME, in the same issue, also under "Medicine", reported results of the treatment of tuberculosis with diasone, a new sulfa drug.Had TIME not been so intent on sensationalizing leprosy and more alert to report the progress of science,they might have secured a scoop,for sulfa drugs, including diasone,are also being used in this hospital in the treatment of leprosy with promising results.

It is unfortunate that the public is not more conversant with the real facts concerning leprosy for it is only by educational means,as in other misconceptions, that the public can gain an intelligent viewpoint. It is time that TIME and other magazines used their columns to disseminate such knowledge.

I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed,but I am bound to live up to the light I have. I must stand with anybody that stands for right, stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong.

- - -Abraham Lincoln

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan,
Canada

To the staff of THE STAR:

As editor of THE VALLEY ECHO, the magazine of the Saskatchewan Sanatoria, I am more than gratified by the interest displayed by editors of other publications in the article on Hansen's disease, "Sisters Under the Skin", written especially for THE ECHO by Stanley Stein. The number of times this article has been reprinted and commented upon in tuberculosis publications shows that people are avid for authentic information about the much maligned Hansen's disease. This favorable reception should encourage those most keenly interested to intensify their educational efforts in every way possible. Our aims as health workers are identical. May they continue to go forward during the New Year and all the years to come.

Yours very sincerely,
Jean Paul Talbot,
Editor, THE VALLEY ECHO

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The splendid "Marching Along Together" cooperation given us by Jean Paul Talbot has been most encouraging and we are grateful to this Canadian editor for being such a "good neighbor". It was she who proposed the exchange of articles between THE ECHO and THE STAR and this in turn prompted several hospital publications in widely separated sections of the United States to reprint our article, thus carrying the message of education on Hansen's disease to many more readers.

It is now our happy privilege to offer warm congratulations to Jean Paul and the staff of THE VALLEY ECHO on THE ECHO'S 24th birthday which that top-ranking sanatorium is observing this month. - - - - - - - - -

Pass your STAR to a friend when you have read it.

MISSION ADOPTS RESOLUTION

Following the submission of a request by THE STAR, endorsed by the Patients' Federation and by the local American Legion Post, that The American Mission to Lepers cooperate with the patients of this hospital by eliminating that odious word from their organizational name, the Mission, meeting in annual convention held in New York City during October, adopted the following resolution:

"It was VOTED to direct the secretaries to reply to the several communications from the United States Marine Hospital at Carville, Louisiana, stating that this Board appreciates the courteous request which the friends in Carville have sent us; but that, after discussion, the Board finds itself confronting such difficulties due to the many years when our present name has had the compassionate sanction of millions of Christians that the Board wishes to give the subject further consideration before reaching a decision."

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CONGRATULATIONS, DR. JOHANSEN!

Dr. Frederick A. Johansen, executive officer of this hospital, is now a Senior-Surgeon or Commander, United States Public Health Service. Nineteen years ago, on November 12, Dr. Jo assumed his duties in Carville and by happy coincidence, word of his promotion **came on** about the same date. Dr. Jo's long and faithful service in this hospital has endeared him to the patients who regard him, **not** only **as** a physician, but also as a counsellor and friend.

In two **decades here, crowded** with tragedy not unmixed with comedy, Dr. Jo has had a box seat as well as participated in a drama rich in human interest. We think he should write his memoirs.

TWINKLE TWINKLE LITTLE STAR

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St.Vincent's, Chicago,Illinois.

Renewing my next year's subscription to THE STAR affords me an opportunity to express my appreciation of this fine piece of work, and my thanks to the Editors, the Technical Staff,and to every patient at Carville for the splendid example you give us of the most exalted courage.

You, heroes and heroines in a battle waged against ill health, our fellow citizens, form a silent, soul-tried army helping to uphold the morale of our fighting men, guiding our ships in precarious places to safe landings, and constraining a merciful Providence to temper the wind and lessen their dangers. Who knows but that it was the patient endurance of a pain more severe than usual that was instrumental in bringing in that plane commemorated in the thrilling song, "Coming in on a Wing and a Prayer"?

God knows What is best for us all in this land of exile, our apprenticeship or training ground for our Home in Heaven,so let us trust Him to the very end. That He may continue to enkindle in each and every one of you the magnificent spirit you manifest, and keep you, and guide you, and bless you,always and everywhere, is the prayer of

Your deeply appreciative,
Sister Bernadette

I take pleasure in sending you under separate cover a reprint of my paper on leprosy which you commented upon recently in The Star.* I am happy that you found this of interest and that the point of view it expressed was one which had more than a little cogency at the present time. I need not tell you of my interest in this disease and especially of my interest in the people who are afflicted with it, for it is they who are to be treated, not the disease. In this I think there is a nice distinction.

I appreciate your sending me The Star and I have read it with interest. This is a commendable undertaking, and I congratulate all of you who are engaged in its publication. I hope some day that I may be able to visit Carville to meet some of you personally who are responsible for the paper.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,
Chester North Frazier,
Professor of Dermatology,
School of Medicine,
University of Texas,
Galveston, Texas.

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The Star's global ambitions received a big boost and the staff a thrill when the mail this month brought a communication from Dr. Norman R. Sloan of Kalaupapa, Molokai, Territory of Hawaii. Dr. Sloan generously sent his check for $10.00 for two subscriptions to The Star and a request for all back numbers. available.

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*Note: An abstract from Dr. Frazier's paper appeared in the November, 1943 Star.

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THE STAR has received an interesting letter from a discharged patient,Ernesto Noble of Argentina. Senor Noble has written two books on Hansen's disease and has offered one of them to our patient's Library.

ANN PAGE'S THE LADIES

Perchance you thought the Christmas spirit evades Carville but on the contrary it arrives with the first frost and gathers momentum as the holiday season nears.

Thanksgiving is just a pleasant memory and now Christmas is uppermost in our minds. The gift catalogs having been perused, orders are mailed and much secrecy pervades. Some of us have already received Christmas greetings from the boys overseas, Christmas trees are ordered, we're dusting off our pre-war ornaments and testing our lights. We hope, we hope, we hope they are not burned out.

Rehearsals for the ever beautiful and inspiring tableau vivant are going forward apace. It will have its premiere on Christmas Eve with patients and personnel as the audience. Judging from past years we know we are in for a grand presentation.

Nature seems to be in tune with the southern Christmas for Chrysanthemums of varied hues are in their full glory, the roses are still with us, violets have begun to bloom and the poinsettias give promise of great beauty.

Some of the patients go home each year, ten being granted leave at one time. The list has been complete for a long time but family and friends of other patients will come here to spend Christmas with us. In case you don't know about this, a bus will meet your train at St.Gabriel, bring you here and take you back to the train. How about coming over for a few days?

Both floors of the hospital and the blind houses have a tree each year. Other houses are decorated to suit those living in them.

Parties and pleasant gatherings throughout the holiday season are much the same as you enjoy. So many good things to serve guests are received from home that we spend this season sharing our treats.

The grand climax has been a dance on New Year's Eve in past years. Due to gasoline rationing we will have to take that as it comes this year.

We, of the Star Staff, know there is a real live Santa Claus. He may not have a long white beard and a sled with reindeers, BUT he certainly delivered that long looked for printing press. It wasn't a mirage, we thought we saw last September, but that long hoped for help. Cheers for the 40 & 8 and some more for every member of the American Legion. We can't help but succeed in our work with you fellows behind us.

May your New Year be happy and brightened by great victories on all fronts. Until 1944 Cheerio, and thanks for listening.

ALL AROUND THE TOWN

Mr. Jerry Vogel of New York City is still remembering us with candy. Candy is as scarce here as hen's teeth, which makes it doubly appreciated. Our Thanksfiving gift of "Little Chunky's" was extra good. Thanks again, Mr. Vogel.

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Junior and Johnnie had birth - days very close together during November. Louise Ann had one big party for both boys. From the sounds issuing from the living room there must have been a lot of spirit in this affair. Eh, what!

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Some of our girls are going Or - iental since Grace received some imported Chinese tea. The girls don their pajamas, bring along cushions, gather in Grace's room and sit on the floor to sip real Chinese tea before retiring. We'd like to be mice, but the rare kind that know shorthand, and jot down bits of the conversation. This page would then be no trouble at all to fill.

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The colored employees of this hospital had quite a treat during November. "Cabin in the Sky" was the feature picture one Saturday night. A special showing was presented in the Personnel theater for all of them and their families. The buses made special trips to bring them over and back home. We are told some 40 or 50 of them came to see it. It really was a fine gesture and they thoroughly appreciated it.

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Speaking of our colored employees - -have you missed Henry Givens in the dining-room, too? Uncle Sam called him up for service and we are wondering if he is serving meals there, too. His wife came to our dining-room to take his job. Good luck, Henry!

One of our patients, Ross Smith, is from Grand Cayman an island off the coast of Cuba. He said that, although, Grand Cayman is now an English possession, it retains many Spanish customs, but Christmas is observed in the American way.

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Gerry tells us that in Jamaica instead of taking baskets of food to the poor at Christmas Jamaica Rum is the gift to all not able to purchase it for themselves.

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Jules, who is from the Netherlands, says that the only difference in Christmas there and in the States is the custom of each child putting out wooden shoes to receive the gifts rather than the traditional stocking of this country. An interesting practice is that of surprising someone on the morning of her birthday with music and singing under the bedroom window at the first crack of dawn.

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Charles Matherne is sticking to his story but, Charley, it is aw - ful hard to believe that a quiet game like Ping-pong could be responsible for those 4 stitches in your forehead.

Dear Santa:

Our wants are not so numerous but rather diversified so we'd better give you some tips.

Knowing that you have such a big heart Steve would like a bit of it. You see, Santa, he's lost his own.

Bring Dolly a Date Book 'cause her cheerful personality just seems to draw company like bees to honey.

Dear Santa, can't you do something about this request? Martin says just once before he gets too old he'd like a blonde to serve his breakfast in bed. But now, Buddy is less choosey - - if you'll bring the blonde to his address he'll serve the breakfast.

Miracle will be completely happy if you'll bring her 5 pieces of cypress 1 x 10 x 14. She wants to build a house or something.

Have you some modern invention that would dig up Harry's garden and plant the seeds. Maybe something like touch tuning on a radio. He won't mind harvesting the crop.

Miriam doesn't need any of that irium, they sing about on Bob Hope's program, not with that flashing smile, but of all things she'll settle for some limburger and a loaf of rye and love it.

Grace wants a honey of a fur coat, around $1000, but we have an idea. We have a number of skunks running around our golf course, look very pretty but ... do you think you might get a deskunked one and we could use the fur for a neck piece for her. After all; Grace, there is a war on.

(See page 15)

The handicap tournament held in November was the big event for local golf enthusiasts. After 5 weeks of play, Gennyrosa carried off honors for the girls while Randon was the winner among the boys. Many other players received cash prizes.

Dr. Prejean, personnel golf champ, plans a razzle - dazzle tournament for the patients. The game is played like this: two teams are picked consisting of 6 players on each team, both boys and girls. Each team has one ball to play with and they take turns in hitting it. This is a lot of fun and the idea is for one team to befuddle the other.

Volley Ball

Four volley ball teams have been organized and the regular season which promises to be exciting will open the 2nd week in December.

Tennis is also coming in for attention and the tennis and volley ball courts have been so arranged to permit spectators to watch their favorite game.

Ping Pong

This indoor sport is very popular in the Game Room. A tournament, sponsored by the Sports Club, gets under way December 15. A silver cup will go to the winner and in addition 9 cash prizes will be awarded. It looks like there will be many contestants for practice is going on daily. Henry and Arthur all but sleep there now.

PERSONNEL PERSONALS

by Mary E. Browne

On the first Tuesday of November, the meetings of the Officer's Supper Club for the current season were inaugurated, with Mrs.G.H.Fagot as hostess. A delightful evening was enjoyed.

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Mrs.Charles Maguire of Mobile, Alabama visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Sharp recently.

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An item of interest is the marriage of Miss Elmira Roberts to First Lieutenant T.J.Newman, celebrated on October 6 at the Chapel,Washington University,St. Louis Missouri, Chaplain (Col) Cartier Officiating. Lt. Newman is personnel officer at the Washington University and the attendants at the wedding were his Commanding Officer,Captain Holmes and Mrs. Holmes. The couple enjoyed a trip to Chicago and Milwaukee where they visited the family of Lieutenant Newman.

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Two very enjoyable meetings of the Ladies' Friday Afternoon Bridge Club were held during the month with Mrs. F.A.Johansen and Mrs. R. C. Pogge as hostesses.

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Dr.and Mrs.F. A. Johansen entertained with a cocktail party for Ensign Maxime Allen Fagot on Wenesday, November 10 prior to his departure at the end of his leave. This was one of the lovely social events of the season, with officers of the staff,their wives and other personnel attending.

Ensign Fagot is now at Penn State University where he will study for several months.He visited friends in Norfolk, Va.

Mrs. Ruth Hudson enjoyed a vation during the month at her home in Plaquemine, while her brother (Naval Aviation) was also home on leave.

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The Dessert Club which meets the third Tuesday or Thursday of the month in the Personnel Recreation Room held its first meeting eg the season on Nov. 18 with Mrs.G. H. Fagot and Mrs.Edrel Engler as co-hostesses.After an ice course bridge was played. The high winner of the evening was R. E. Warthen. Other prizes were won by Mary Browne,Dr.Pogge, Mrs.Dinan,Mr.S.H.Butler and Mrs. Stanley.

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A visit to the Gulf Coast was enjoyed by Mr. and Mrs. S.H.Butler and Suzanne to see Perry Butler, a student at Gulf Coast Military Academy, Gulfport,Miss. during November.

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Miss Mary Browne was a visitor to relatives and friends in New Orleans recently.

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Lieutenant David Gleason is on "leave" visiting his parents,Mr. and Mrs. David Gleason.

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Mrs. George Malarcher (Margery Dill)had the pleasure of a visit from her husband, Staff Sergeant George Malarcher who is on duty at Fort Lewis, Washington.

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Guests at the Nicolosi quarters recently included Mrs. Rhea Aden and son and daughter.

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(Continued on Page 15)

Dear Santa--continued

We suggest some kiddy cars, rocking horses and tommy guns delivered to House 20-2. They are badly in need of toys over there.

Could you bring a wave in from the Gulf. You see, Jerry is really missing a Wave and if you can bring a certain WAC Bill would be happy about the whole thing.

Dot has been unusually quiet maybe she wrote her own letter.

If you want to do a big favor for all of these guys and gals (and we've been pretty good, swallow our vitamins, get our blood count and our Promin regularly) just send us a covered wagon and a fast team of horses so we can resume those vacations that gasoline rationing has interferred with.

For The Star, please, stop off in Washington and bring along that printer we are impatiently waiting for so we can get started on our new program early in 1944.

We'll be listening for you -- there's plenty of room on the golf course for a safe landing.

Until Christmas Eve, so long.

Kid Karvil

I have always thought of Christmastime as a good time; a kind, time when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and I say, God Bless It.

----Charles Dickens

Star of the East! Show us
the way,
In wisdom undefiled,
To seek that manger out and lay,
Our gifts before the Child- -
To bring our hearts, and offer
them,
Unto the King of Bethlehem.

----Eugene Field

Personnel Personals-continued

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Tice entertained Mrs. George Mitchell Mr. J.H.Tucker and Mr. Glennon all of Mobile recently, all of whom were called here on account of the illness of Mrs.Tucker. We are glad to report that Mrs.Tuckeris now all right again.

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Mrs. David Philippi left during November to join her husband, Lt. David Philippi in Virginia.

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Born to Major and Mrs. F. D. McCreary, in Pineville, Louisiana on November 28, 1943 a son, Frank Dubose McCreary Jr.

NOTICE

Janet Fields (House 16, Room 115) is offering a set of left-handed golf clubs for sale at a very reasonable price. Mrs. Fields says that the set is not complete but there is a brassie, a midiron and other clubs, all in good condition. Here is an opportunity to purchase something really useful as a Christmas gift for a golf playing friend.

If any of the patients have articles they would like to sell or swap, THE STAR is glad to list them.

THE HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP

Friendship's House is made of
gold
Its doors are open wide
And Love and Trust and Happiness
Are ever inside.
It's in the City of the heart,
Where stars shine all year
through,
For Friendship's house is built
of gold,
By precious friends like you.

This beautiful poem was sent to us by Sister Bernadette.

THE NEW YEAR

A Flower unblown, a Book unread,
A Tree with fruit unharvested;
A Path untrod, a House whose rooms
Lack yet the heart's divine perfumes.
This is the year that for you waits,
Beyond Tomorrow's mystic gates.

---Horatio Nelson Powers